

Office of Personnel Management

§ 838.423

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

§ 838.411 Amounts subject to court orders.

(a)(1) Refunds of employee contributions are subject to court orders acceptable for processing only if all of the conditions necessary for payment of the refund of employee contributions to the separated employee have been met, including, but not limited to—

(i) Separation from a covered position in the Federal service;

(ii) Application for payment of the refund of employee contributions by the separated employee; and

(iii) Immediate entitlement to a refund of employee contributions.

(2) Money held by an employing agency or OPM that may be payable at some future date is not available for payment under court orders directed at refunds of employee contributions.

(b) Payment under a court order may not exceed the amount of the refund of employee contributions.

APPLICATION AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES

§ 838.421 Application requirements.

(a) A former spouse (personally or through a representative) must apply in writing to be eligible for a court-awarded portion of a refund of employee contributions. No special form is required.

(b) The application letter must be accompanied by—

(1) A certified copy of the court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions.

(2) A certification from the former spouse or the former spouse's representative that the court order is currently in force and has not been amended, superseded, or set aside;

(3) Information sufficient for OPM to identify the employee or separated employee, such as his or her full name, date of birth, and social security number;

(4) The current mailing address of the former spouse; and

(5) If the employee or separated employee has not applied for a refund of employee contributions, the current

mailing address of the employee or separated employee.

§ 838.422 Timeliness of application.

(a) Except as provided in § 838.431 and paragraph (b) of this section, a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions is not effective unless OPM receives the documentation required by § 838.421 not later than—

(1) The last day of the second month before payment of the refund; or

(2) Twenty days after OPM receives the Statement required by § 831.2007(c) or § 843.208(b) of this chapter if the former spouse has indicated on that Statement that such a court order exists.

(b) If OPM receives a copy of a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions but not all of the documentation required by § 838.421, OPM will notify the former spouse that OPM must receive the missing items within 15 days after the date of the notice or OPM cannot comply with the court order.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

§ 838.423 OPM action on receipt of a court order acceptable for processing.

(a) If OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions, OPM will inform—

(1) The former spouse—

(i) That the court order is acceptable for processing;

(ii) Of the date on which OPM received the court order;

(iii) Whether OPM has a record of unrefunded employee contributions on the employee;

(iv) That the former spouse's share of the refund of employee contributions cannot be paid unless the employee separates from the Federal service and applies for a refund of employee contributions;

(v) To the extent possible, the formula that OPM will use to compute the former spouse's share of a refund of employee contributions; and

(vi) That, if the former spouse disagrees with the formula, the former